

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

I. (Currently Amended) A method of determining functions to provide at a given node forming part of a communication path comprising:

~~at least one of:~~

sending from the given node, information identifying ~~at least one of:~~

one or more local functions capable of being provided to traffic in the communication path by the given node; and

if available, one or more remote functions capable of being provided to the traffic by other nodes forming part of the communication path; ~~[[and]]~~

receiving information from at least one other node forming part of the communication path, the information identifying ~~[[the]]~~ one or more remote functions; and

determining whether any of the one or more local functions should be applied to the traffic based on criteria, which defines how the one or more local and remote functions are applied by the given node and other nodes and is available to the given node and other nodes,

wherein the received information is received from at least one of the other nodes that is upstream of traffic flow, and at least one of the other nodes that is downstream of the traffic flow, and wherein the at least one of the other nodes that is upstream of the traffic flow is a most proximate node upstream of

traffic flow, and the at least one of the other nodes that is downstream of the traffic flow is a most proximate node downstream of the traffic flow.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising applying to the traffic any of the one or more local functions, which are determined to be applied to the traffic.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Canceled)
5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[3]] 1 further comprising creating the information to identify the one or more remote functions provided by the one or more other nodes upstream and downstream of the given node and the one or more local functions.
6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[3]] 1 wherein the criteria is further based on a location of one or more other nodes relative to the given node.
7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the received information identifies one or more remote nodes associated with each of the one or more remote functions.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the one or more local and remote functions is associated with an attribute, which is sent or received with the one or more local and remote functions, the criteria defining how at least one of the one or more local and remote functions are applied based on the attribute.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the traffic is voice traffic.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the given node is at least one of the group consisting of a terminal, an access point, an endpoint, a gateway, and a routing node.
11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein certain of the one or more local functions and certain of the one or more remote functions are identical, the criteria defining selection indicia determining which of one or more local and remote nodes is given priority.
12. (Previously Presented) A communication node forming part of a communication path comprising:
  - a communication interface; and
  - a control system associated with the communication interface and adapted to:
    - at least one of:
      - send information identifying at least one of:
        - one or more local functions capable of being provided to traffic in the communication path by the communication node; and
        - if available, one or more remote functions capable of being provided to the traffic by other nodes forming part of the communication path; [[and]]

receive information from at least one other node forming part of the communication path, the information identifying [[the]] one or more remote functions; and

determine whether any of the one or more local functions should be applied to the traffic based on criteria, which defines how the one or more local and remote functions are applied by the communication node and the other nodes and is available to the communication node and the other nodes;

wherein the received information is received from at least one of the other nodes that is upstream of traffic flow, and at least one of the other nodes that is downstream of the traffic flow, and wherein the at least one of the other nodes that is upstream of the traffic flow is a most proximate node upstream of traffic flow, and the at least one of the other nodes that is downstream of the traffic flow is a most proximate node downstream of the traffic flow.

13. (Original) The communication node of claim 12 wherein the control system is further adapted to apply to the traffic any of the one or more local functions, which are determined to be applied to the traffic.
14. (Canceled)
15. (Canceled)
16. (Currently Amended) The communication node of claim [[14]] 12 further comprising creating the information to identify the one or more remote

functions provided by one or more other nodes upstream and downstream of the communication node, and the one or more local functions.

17. (Currently Amended) The communication node of claim [[14]] 12 wherein the criteria is further based on a location of one or more other nodes relative to the communication node.
18. (Previously Presented) The communication node of claim 12 wherein the received information identifies one or more other nodes associated with each of the one or more remote functions.
19. (Original) The communication node of claim 12 wherein at least one of the one or more local and remote functions is associated with an attribute, which is sent or received with the one or more local and remote functions, the criteria defining how at least one of the one or more local and remote functions are applied based on the attribute.
20. (Original) The communication node of claim 12 wherein the traffic is voice traffic.
21. (Currently Amended) The communication node of claim 12 wherein the communication node is at least ~~one of the group consisting of~~ a terminal, an access point, an endpoint, a gateway, and a routing node.
22. (Previously Presented) The communication node of claim 12 wherein certain of the one or more local functions and certain of the one or more remote functions are identical, the criteria defining selection indicia determining which of one or more other nodes and the communication node is given priority.

23. (New) A method of determining functions to provide at a given node forming part of a communication path comprising:

sending from the given node, information identifying:

one or more local functions capable of being provided to traffic in the communication path by the given node; and

if available, one or more remote functions capable of being provided to the traffic by other nodes forming part of the communication path;

receiving information from at least one other node forming part of the communication path, the information identifying one or more remote functions; and

determining whether any of the one or more local functions should be applied to the traffic based on criteria, which defines how the one or more local and remote functions are applied by the given node and other nodes and is available to the given node and other nodes,

wherein the received information is received from at least one of the other nodes that is upstream of traffic flow, and at least one of the other nodes that is downstream of the traffic flow, and wherein the criteria is further based on a location of one or more other nodes relative to the given node.

24. (New) A communication node forming part of a communication path comprising:

a communication interface; and

a control system associated with the communication interface and adapted to:

send information identifying:

one or more local functions capable of being provided to traffic in the communication path by the communication node; and

if available, one or more remote functions capable of being provided to the traffic by other nodes forming part of the communication path;

receive information from at least one other node forming part of the communication path, the information identifying one or more remote functions; and

determine whether any of the one or more local functions should be applied to the traffic based on criteria, which defines how the one or more local and remote functions are applied by the communication node and the other nodes and is available to the communication node and the other nodes,

wherein the received information is received from at least one of the other nodes that is upstream of traffic flow, and at least one of the other nodes that is downstream of the traffic flow, and wherein the criteria is further based on a location of one or more other nodes relative to the given node.